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Chief, [ ] Special Register, OCR

27 October 1955

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Chief, [ ]

IBM Indexing of Radio Frequency Record.

1. Any answer to your inquiry regarding the interest of this division in having access to an index of the Radio Frequency Record should be prefaced with a statement of the value of the RFR to this organization. Inasmuch as [ ] is primarily concerned with actual usage of radio frequencies and with realistic data concerning extant facilities, the rather academic and hypothetical information embodied in the contributions of many countries to the RFR normally relegates this publication to a position of marginal value. There are occasions when data is sufficiently realistic to be applicable to our operations, but it is difficult to assess the worth of these instances against the cost of indexing the entire Record. It is therefore our feeling that indexing of the RFR can only be justified if a number of other organizations have more significant requirements.

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25X1A [ ] 2. Assuming the existence and adequacy of these requirements, [ ] can then state that a call-letter index and a geographical index of RFR listings would cover the principal needs of this division. An abbreviated run including columns 1, 3, 4-a (minus coordinates) and 5 might be preferable if such indexes were to be produced covering the entire RFR, since any specific points to be investigated could easily be cross-referenced in the RFR for additional information. It is believed that the maximum 80 columns of information should be carded in order to provide as complete data as is possible for limited and specialized runs.

25X1A [ ] 25X1A 3. From the [ ] point-of-view, two sets of data included in your sample listing by country could be excluded from punch: They are coordinates (column 4-a) and description of transmission (column 7). Column 6 (emission) would be dispensable as an alternate to column 7 except that a scanning of the record indicates data in this category to be more complete. In place of these data, [ ] would find more useful the information contained in columns 9-a (azimuthal bearing of antenna) and 2-a and 2-c (dates of registration and placing in service respectively).

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